

OCD

FEB 1952 51-444

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

25X1

CD NO.

25X1 COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 22 September 1952

25X1 SUBJECT Shipments of War Materials to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Nam Bo

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

REFERENCE COM

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Local Arms Production

1. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) has installed in each interzone one or two armament factories for the manufacture of arms and ammunition. One of these factories, the production of which is very small, is located on the provincial border between Tay Ninh (106-05; 11-18) and Van Co (unlocated). This factory manufactures grenades, mines and cartridges. Larger factories, located at Tan Chau (105-14; 10-48) and in the Plaine des Jongs area, can make rifles and machine guns at a rate of ten tons per month. However, now that the DRV in South Vietnam is supplied with better quality arms from North Vietnam [] these factories are used only to repair damaged equipment.

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Shipments from North Vietnam

2. Each month the DRV in South Vietnam receives from North Vietnam about 70 tons of equipment, including rifles, sub-machineguns, mortars and medical supplies. This equipment is transported by truck or ox-cart from North Vietnam to Dong Hoi (107-37; 17-28). From Dong Hoi the transport has become increasingly difficult because of French military operations and is undertaken only at night. Small groups of human carriers and horses move the equipment in stages from Dong Hoi to Cam Lo (107-59; 16-48), from Cam Lo to Lao Bao (106-34; 16-36), Lao Bao to Quang Nam (108-15; 15-53), Quang Nam to Bong Son (109-01; 14-25), Bong Son to Qui Nhon (109-13; 13-46), Qui Nhon to Van Gia (109-13; 12-41), Van Gia to Ma Lang,¹ Ma Lang to Dong Dia,² Dong Dia to Daka,³ finally from Daka to Tay Ninh.

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3. In Tay Ninh Province, the materiel is stored in a depot at Ba Den (106-11; 11-22), from where it is shipped to the various zones of South Vietnam. A large part of the materiel is subsequently stored at Hong Ngu (105-20; 10-48), Go Bac Chien (105-54; 10-46), and at various places in the Plaine des Jones.
4. The supply route from North Vietnam was inaugurated in about June 1951 in order that South Vietnam might receive its share of the arms received from Communist China. The DRV developed a methodical system of transport by region, each region being responsible for the transport of materiel to the border of the next region, where a group from that region assumed responsibility.

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1. Field Comment. Possibly Ma Lam (108-48; 11-57).
2. Field Comment. Presumably Dan Gia (108-17; 11-38).
3. Field Comment. Presumably Da Kai (107-31; 11-15).

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